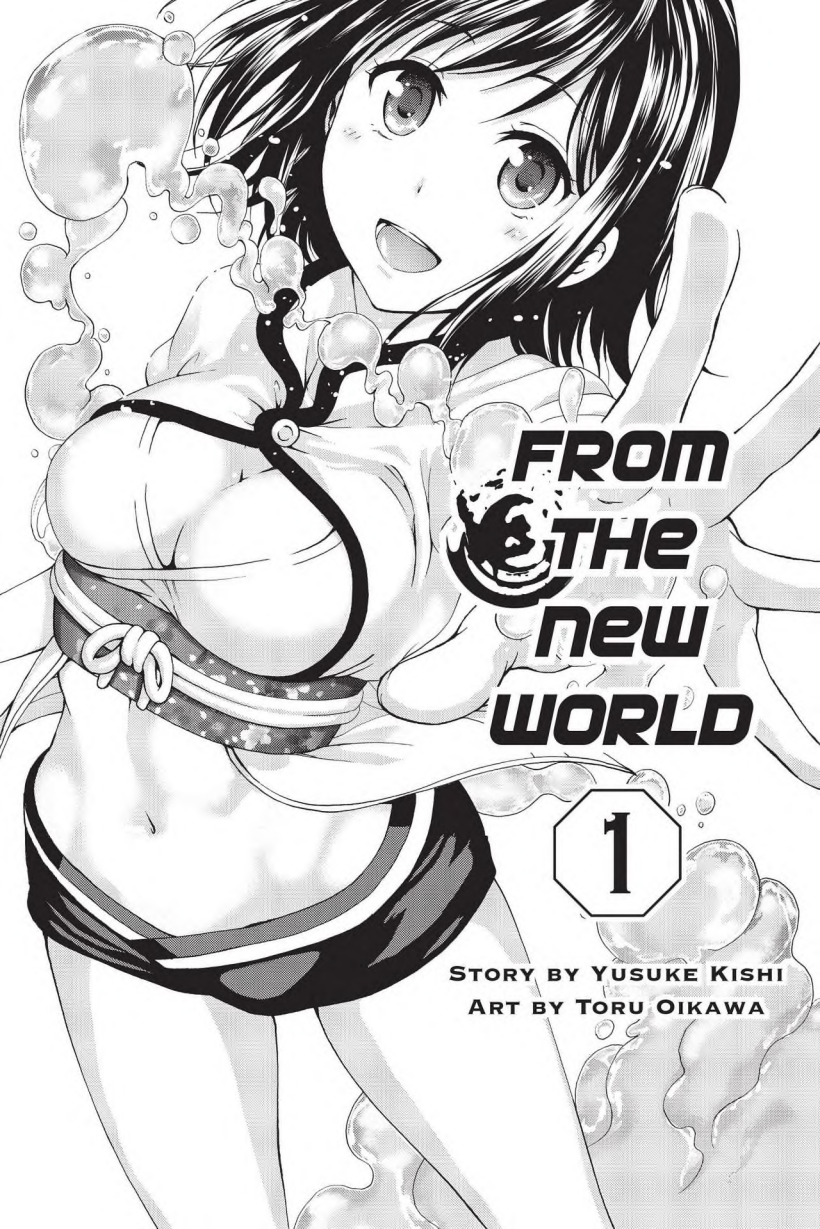
FROM THE NEW WORLD
1
Story by Yusuke Kishi
Art by Toru Oikawa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ART BY TORU OIKAWA

CONTENTS

1

Season of Fresh Leaves

3

2

Past The Border Rope

75

3

Summer Darkness

125

4

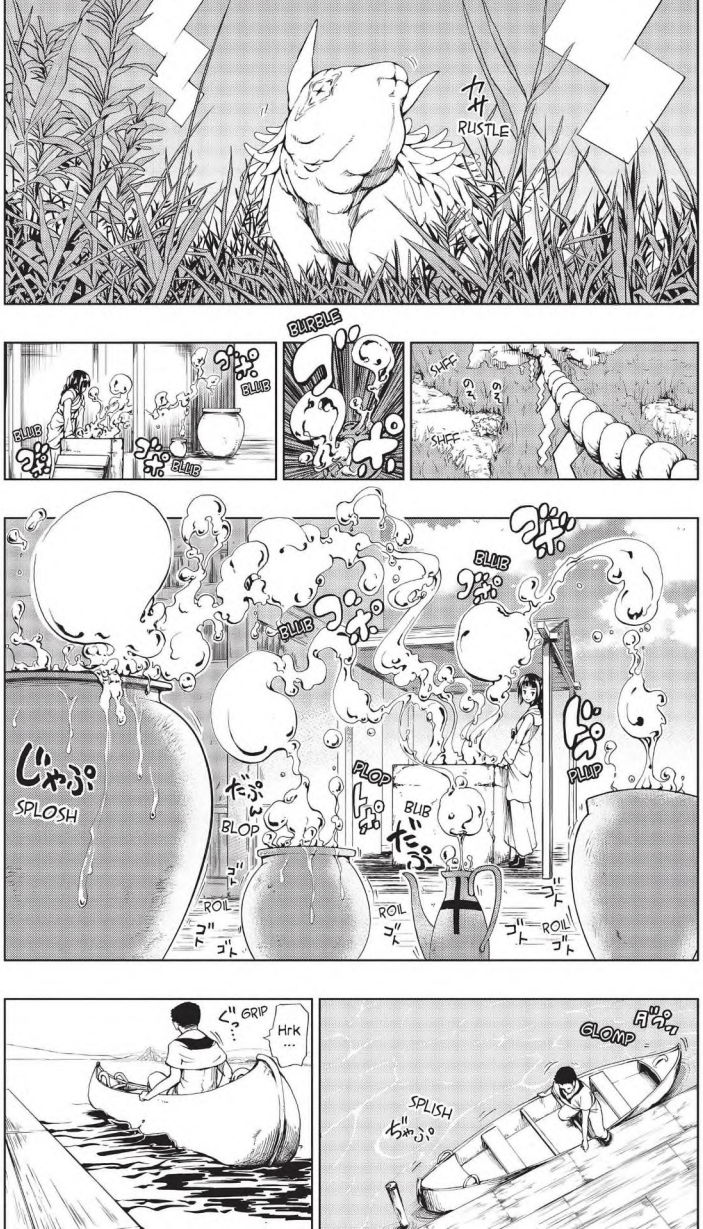
A Pair of Eyes
in the Darkness

165

KAMISU 66 ACREAGE IS LACED WITH A NETWORK OF CANALS THAT DIVIDE THE TONE RIVER, ALLOWING BOAT TRAVEL.
A BORDER ROPE AND A POWERFUL FIELD THAT PROTECTS US KIDS ENCLOSE THE TOWNSHIP.
WE'RE TAUGHT TO NEVER SET FOOT OUTSIDE THE ROPE.
OUR PEACEFUL TOWN—

Chapter 1
Season of Fresh Leaves

SO THAT HUMAN FOLLY WON'T CAUSE THE CALAMITY THAT BESET
OUR PEACEFUL TOWN TO RECUR IN THE FAR FUTURE,
I HEREBY CHRONICLE THE EVENTS OF MY LIFE.

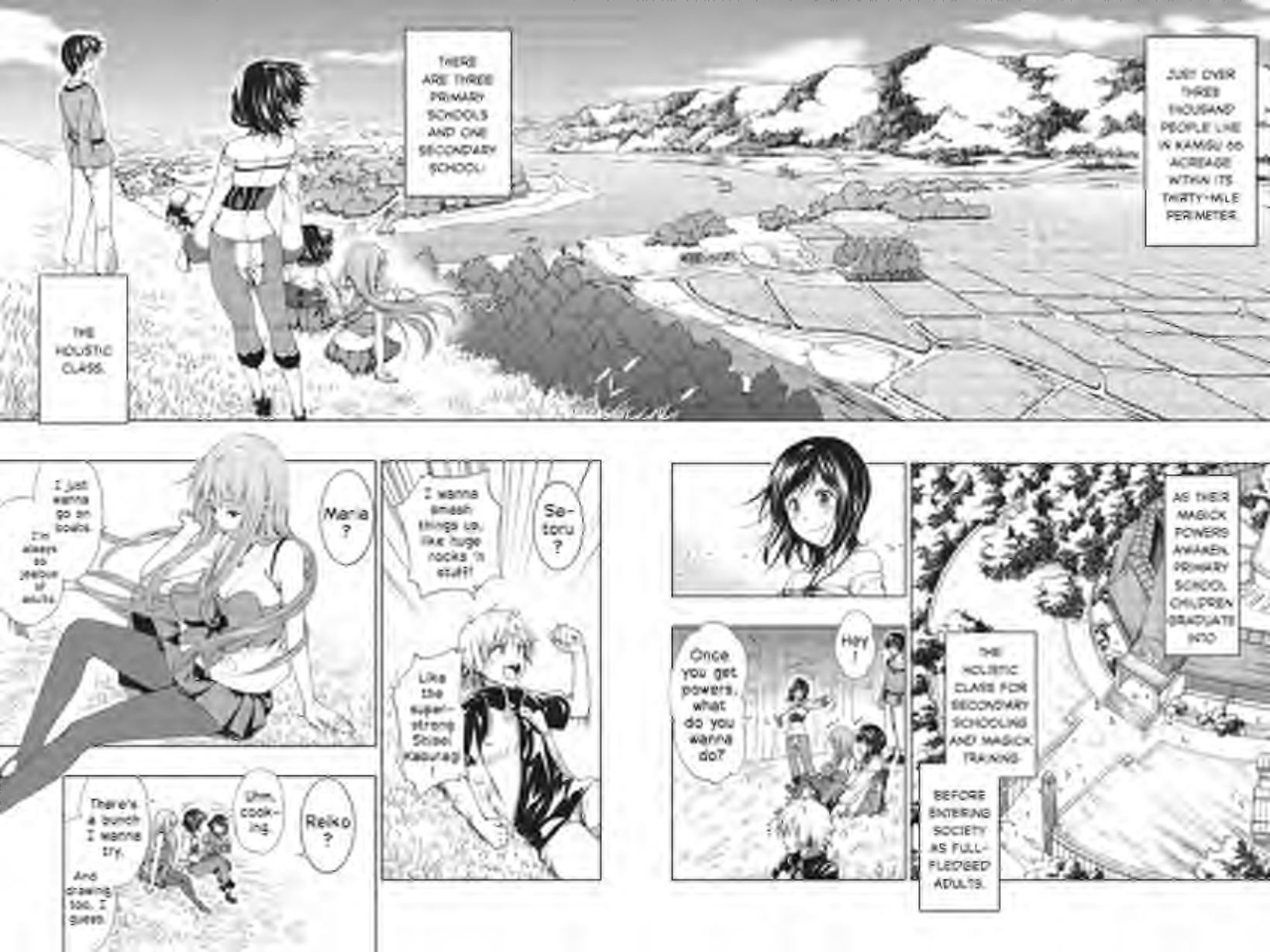

カサ
RUSTLE
BLURBLE
ゴポ
BLUB
ゴポ
BLUB
SHIFF
SHIFF
ゴポ
BLUB
ゴポ
BLUB
ゴポ
BLUB
じゃぷ
SPLOSH
だぷ
BLOP
ゴポ
PLOP
だぷ
BLUB
ゴポ
PLUP
ゴゴゴ
ROIL
ゴゴゴ
ROIL
ゴゴゴ
ROIL
GRIP
Hrk
…
GLOMP
SPLISH
ちゃぷ

And then Satoru —
Hey, quit it, Saki!
What? Say it, say it!
...
ZYSHH
!
Saki !
Thanks, mom !
Snacks! Share 'em with your friends!

WHUMP
All right, I'm gonna toss 'em!
THUP THUP
Thank you so much!
Oopsie!
PLOP
PLOP
ULP
Huh?!
HUP
Why? Hey!
Wait!
PLOMP
Whoa!
Oops...
Reiko!
Watch it, geez!
Satoru!
SNATCH
Hm♪
CATCH
Maria!

Thanks, Saki!
Shun?
HEH HEH!
great?
Isn't magick just
Mom's new recipe! She cooked it with Flame from the inside!
Mm, Yummy♡ The crust is crisp but the inside is sticky! It melts on my tongue!

Whoa! A Morph Rat?
How rare to see one in town.
What's up, Shun?
Huh? Isn't that...
It's cleaning the canals.
And its face?
Hubert. Too bad.
I can't wait
to use magick too.
The canals. Adults are so lucky, powering boats with magick.


THE HOLISTIC CLASS.
THERE ARE THREE PRIMARY SCHOOLS AND ONE SECONDARY SCHOOL.
JUST OVER THREE THOUSAND PEOPLE LIVE IN KAMISU 66 ACREAGE WITHIN ITS THIRTY-MILE PERIMETER.
Maria ?
I just wanna go on boats.
I'm always so jealous of adults.
Se-toru ?
I wanna smash things up, like huge rocks 'n stuff!
Like the super-strong Shiori Kasuragi !
Reiko ?
Um, cooking.
There's a bunch I wanna try.
And drawing too, I guess.
Hey !
Once you get powers, what do you wanna do?
AS THEIR MAGICK POWERS AWAKEN, PRIMARY SCHOOL CHILDREN GRADUATE INTO
THE HOLISTIC CLASS FOR SECONDARY SCHOOLING AND MAGICK TRAINING.
BEFORE ENTERING SOCIETY AS FULL-FLEDGED ADULTS.

And you, Saki?
Me
I bet I know.
Hm? Me?!

And then
Umm... Umm...

I wanna explore out past the Rope!

I wanna see scenery you can't see or even imagine here in town.
I'm sure I can go anywhere with magick!
I wanna see the animals that live out there, like Morph Rats!

Yes ?
Let's go together when the time comes.
I'm with her!
Sure

Hey, did you know?
Huh?
Kn-know what, Sakiru?
I-I, uhm... I'd also love to.
Dammit! Shut! Arg! Don't get cocky! I'm going out!

and they never get to graduate from primary school.
There are some kids whose powers never awaken

Stop, Satoru. It's some kid talk, right?
From what I heard
But there's no one in town who never got to graduate.
Here we go again.
Huh...?

a giant cat
called the Dupe Cat comes to take you away.
Th-there's no way it really exists...
I know a guy who graduated last in his class. According to him...
Wh-what?

A shadow of a giant cat
stretching out from behind him!

Isn't it obvious?!
'Cause out of us,
Who? Why?
You'll regret telling such lies
Aeeee! Saki!
Hey, Satoru! Didn't we say to knock it off?!
you're gonna be the one who graduates last!!

It was me !!
Erm, everyone has graduated from Harmony Academy except you two.
but pass each day with patience and...
was it the first time?
Sakura
Still... was she first to graduate after Maria.
Under Rena. At least Sakura.
Sigh
SHAKE
I-I don't believe in Sakura's tall tale at all...!
And it's not like I'll never graduate, no sir!
Ha... ha ha... There's no such thing as a Super Cat, is there?

I—
I'm not scared at all.
I was just worried that I...
disappear sometime.

Saki ...?
God decides when your magick power awakens, so there's no need to fret.
What's wrong? Don't you want dinner?
...
Saki ?

Ha!
So- Should I try asking her?
Do kids who can't graduate really get taken away by a Dupe Cat?

Relax, you jerk!
Alright It's all that Kenny's fault!

No way!!
Hi, I'm Mr. Dupe Cat! I'm here to collect your girl-
That's it! It was coming to take me away just now!

KREAK

Something's on the roof...?
Wha-
Wha-
Wha-
Wha-
Eek!
Ni-Mom...
?!
Wh-What is it?
Outside?!

Here it comes

wicked huge
Some-thing

!!
!!
Dad, Mom !!
Hel —
D-
!!
It's OK !
You're an adult now, Seki !
?
M-Mom -?

You graduate from primary school today!
It's your magick power!
Graduate

See you later, Saki!
Ah, sure!
See ya!
I just the remains Class today.
I can see my friends again!
Sweet
So glad
I forgot my bag
She probably just barely made it.

No! The last time it was after taking the remedial Class.
It's over now, okay? You worry too much.
On the Day of the Spirit Blessing she was acting odd.
I'm sure she saw a Dusa Cat.

What ?
What if Saki can't control her magick either?
I can't bear to lose another child !

This is Saki Watanabe. She'll be joining the class starting today!

DON'T LOOK SO DOWN, DAMN IT!
THE HELL IS THAT?!
Ow!
Saki, you're in Group 1! Seat's over there!
Good, good! All my students must be in high spirits!
YOOSH!
Hey, stop—
SPOOT
Group 2?!
Hide-ho!
Hey Rie-ta!

Why so late?! I felt so lonely without you!!
I was lonely, too!
Maria !!
Saki !!
Reiko !!
Saki !!

Ha ha ha! I thought you'd given up on ever graduating !
You were there until the end too, Satoru!
I missed you both so much !

Shun
Saki
You're late.
Sorry for the wait.
Let me introduce our group-mate.
I'm Mamiru Ito from Friendship Academy.
Your head looks like it exploded! Nice to meet you!
That's enough. Group 3, Sit down.

Saki!
Now that the last graduate Saki has joined us, class is gonna not full lol.
Give it all you've got, kids!
Ha ha! I totally see it!
His name and hair join up and it looks like a corona, so he's Sun King!
What do you think that teacher's nickname is?

Now then
Today's assignment- Build a house of cards using telekinesis!

Hoo ...
Ready? Go!
I'm fine ...
The monthly intergroup tournament is coming up, so concentrate and do your best!
This is an effective way to hone all the basic essentials of your magick powers.
Concentrate ...
Jingjing pulling up the cards with one hand!
I mustn't let it worry me!
magick now
I can see!

—
ドン

Congrats, Saki.
Grats!
Thanks—er, wait!

I did it!
I did it!

Drip
Hm?

Ah

All right, I got this!

Re
Ko
Urgh
Mn
Mn
Mn
Y-
Yes
Ha ha ha! Seems Reiko's still struggling with control.
Mn
Mn
Mn

Make yourselves at home, girls!
Pardon us!
There you!
Oh!
Huh?
Special magick training?
Yeah!
Reiko's having trouble with her power so why not ask the teacher?
Ha ha ha ha!
Pfft.
Why?

Shun had the same idea and went to talk to Sun King.
Thanks for your concern, Saki!

Just sit down, we'll wash you!
What's so funny, you guys?

We placed last during every tournament because of Reiko and she felt responsible.
We had nothing to lose.
I-Let's not do this after all.
Eh?
Eh?

Teacher! At this rate Reiko will never catch up! Please allow us to practice!
What're you saying, coward?
Huh?!
That's mean!
The rules forbid using magick outside of class. He'll get angry.
Hmf.
You've got some great friends, Reiko! But there's no need to worry.
Bwa ha ha ha ha ha!
Ha ha ha ha!
You kids are great, caring so much about your friend
You'll grow enough just from class! It might be tough to keep up but we call that individuality!
Magick strength varies from person to person. It's all right!

Oh, I see
I'll narrow that?

...and that was it.

There were all kinds for cooking... ah...
But... Um...

And so I started going to the library recently?
Ah

I researched ancient tools. With magic powers it's so much trouble even boiling water.
pooo

That promise
But later

out past the Rope ...
I don't think I can go... exploring
Don't say that !!
No
Reiko !!
I'll protect

Whoaaa! A secret base ?!
Heh heh! Isn't it great ?!
Hey, Saki !
Where are you taking us?
You enter ever here.
Fun ?
?!

So why'd you tell these guys about it?
Be-cause ...
Saki !
Wow !
No one's ever discovered this place! It's been the three of us' secret!

I felt like I couldn't become an adult, that I was being left behind...
Anyway I was scared.
Every day since joining the Holistic Class,
From now on, I
So—
But please help me with special magick training!
I know it's selfish !!
You couldn't say that sooner ?!
ドッ

All right. And then
Leave him to me. I have an idea.
Let's not tell Mamoru-chan.
Secret special training we can't let anyone find out!
I don't understand Reika's true feelings. I don't have the guts to suggest secret training.
I-I just never think too deeply
Huh? Why?!
Sen, you're great.
You always surprise me.
Sen, you're amazing
Thank you
Thx-

It'll make a good goal for the group tournament, too!
Let's just focus on making card houses. It helps refine your balance, too.
O-Okay!
Hmm
When it goes badly
Uhm... I just imagine hands, nothing weird.
First, tell us what you visualize when you do it, especially when you fail.
!
Other images bleed into my field of vision from the edges
And when they spread

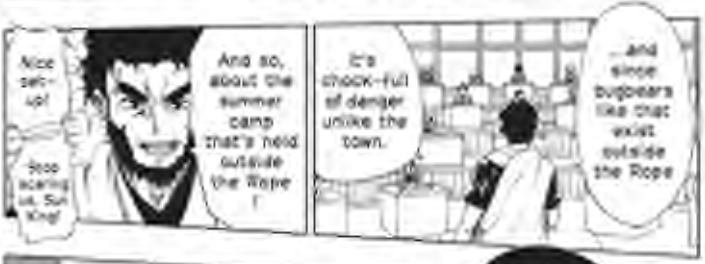
I wonder if Sun king put his wisdom into me anyway...
And I have no idea myself.
It's a sensation I've never felt before.
It's fine!
I-I'm sorry!
Ack!

I wonder if I ought to tell Shun what I overheard. Must Jerk stop having...
But if Shun gains control of the power, every girl in school is bound to...
Maybe you lose focus?
Just practice to get it stable.
OK!

Aaaah
SLAP!

All right! Do your best, Reiko!!

Heid
In Holistic Class, you'll learn about them in greater detail through two fairy tales. First—
About Flames and Karma Demons.


Nice set-up!
Stop scaring us, Sun King!
And so, about the summer camp that's held outside the Rope!
It's chock-full of danger unlike the town.
...and since bugbears like that exist outside the Rope

Seven days outside the Rope?! Group by group?!
You don't know, Sun?
Hun?
Summer camp?

Aw, yeah! That sounds so fun!!
Hello

Reiko, you've gotten pretty good! I'm looking forward to the next group tournament!

If only we had a counter-plan...
I'm just happy I've even made it this far...
Y-Yeah! But I still can't stop the cards from flying away...
Amazing, Reiko.
Whoa! You've sure come a long way!

Saki! I have a favor to ask!
?
?!

We have observers from the Board of Education and a special guest!
Today we hold our much-awaited inergroup card house tournament!
?!

Whaa ?!
Special guest? You don't mean—
Some thing in the air...
Hmm?
?
Isn't it kinda big?
Huh?
Just a bird
It's coming this way!
Huh? Someone's riding it?!
WHOOSH
It's cards!
A bird made of cards!!
Hiiii~
?!
Is that—

Shiiba Kaburagi is here!
The greatest magician ever!!
Shiiba Kaburagi!!
You all right, Reiko? Nervous?
Reiko?
Excuse me!
This is very abrupt and sounds weird, but being with all of you...
Reiko is so happy!!

Maria, I love how you can be so honest with yourself and still look out for others.
Setsuru, I love how you are brave and all your fun stories.
Shun, I love your smarts and the way you protect us.
Saki, you're always the first to offer a hand...
I've always loved you.
I'll do my best so we can win today and be even happier together!
Uhm

I know what you guys have been up to in secret.
Huh ?!
Mu-mori-

But !
I know it was to protect your friend that you wouldn't tell me!
I was never able to ask before, but please let me join in, as a friend!
He's a coward, but he'll keep his word
Well, if even Maria says so!
Right, Seki ?
Yup !!

In order for us six of Group 1 to make it the best experience ever, we gotta...
Summer camp starts tomorrow !!

win today!
YEAH!!
Look at that!
?!
Group tournament, begin!
he won
CRACK
WIN!!

She could barely build anything!
Look at Reiko!
No...
So last!
But Reiko will mess up and... Group 2 will come in last again!
!!
Not just Reiko, all the members of Group 3...

Look, Ran!
As long as you're touching me
I don't mess up!
So in the car...

One minute left!
Could they make it?
?!
No screw-up?!
Oh no
What?! Look at Shun's method!
20 seconds!
Will Group 1 win?!
So fast! Just how high will he go?

All thanks to Saki !
I can use magick
Amazing ...
8!
!!
7!
6!
5!

1!
2!

O!!
It's over, sic ewe!

Oh
She wanted to go home early.
Huh? Where's Reika?

I've got a bad feeling ...
Like that's in fact possible ...
Like I'll never see Reika again.

I'll see you.

Wait !
?!

Saki ?!
Sorry! I'm gonna walk home with Reika!
DASH

pant
pant
pant
pant
Sam, is what you just said true?
That even after joining the Holistic Class, kids who can't use their powers
Not at home or the secret base, either!
She's gone! Why?
I can't believe it, either! But right now we need to find Ippei.
get taken away by a Dope Cat?
...
It's the wind. Let's go.
Yeah.

A Puppet Cat's Shadow 3
RUSTLE
Saki!

'Course not... 'Cause there's no such thing as a Dupe Cat that steals children.
Nothing here?

Not a single kid in town has ever gone missing.

?!
I wasn't the last to graduate !
I left this classmate behind at Harmony Academy !
It's not true !!
!!
How could I ever forget such things !!
The thing is, I can't remember that kid's face or name...
Calm down! I don't recall anyone else...
The Dupe Cat is real!
Shun... Look...
Huh ?

It really exists!!
The Lupo Cat's... blood?

In this town...
kids who can't use magick get killed!

That concludes the results of magick power analysis and the BCR's proposal.
As for him —
I pray it's an error, but I will join the investigation from here on out.

As for the candidate for disposal, I have no objections.

is "magick"?

what on earth

トン

?
Ah, crap! We leave today and I'm not even packed!
You okay alone, Shun?
Uh, more or less.
Yeah, but
who's gonna be his buddy? 'Cause
Can't be helped. He's the only one who can row a canoe alone.

there's only 5 of us.

Yeah!

Be careful out there!!
Hello, Group 2!
Hey !!
Well, why am I paired with you, Sailors?
Ha ha ha!

The Rope ...
What, you got cold feet, Saki?
'Course not!

JAPAN. A THOUSAND YEARS AFTER THE PAST CIVILIZATION CEASED TO BE.
EVERY ASPECT OF YOUTH WAS MANAGED AS IF WE WERE LIVESTOCK.

I WOULD DISCOVER, AMIDST ENDLESS DESPAIR AND SORROW, WHY ADULTS FEARED CHILDREN SO.
THAT MORNING, WE SET OUT FOR SUMMER CAMP. WHICH TRIGGERED IT ALL.
OUR FATEFUL BOATS SAILED ON TOWARDS THAT DAY WHEN SO MUCH WOULD BE REDUCED TO ASH...

Hey, let's forget this!
Yeah!
All right! Let's go!
But...
We've come this far. Give up.

We can't enter the Off Limits Zone!!
but we just can't!
IT ALL BEGAN TEN DAYS BEFORE WITH SATORU'S TALL TALE
FROM THE NEW WORLD

Chapter 2
Past The Border Rope

They've been rounded up to build a stone wall.
Hm. Can't see their faces this time either.
For real !!
Morph Rats!
Oh...
They also never come in past the Rope except for work. Guess we can't see their faces until we're adults.
They tell us kids to stay away from Morph Rats. So how might we...
Hey, did you know ?
Sa-ri-ru
They must. Or not they wouldn't listen to us.
Hey, Sari, as Morph Rats really obey humans because we use magick and they think we're gods?
Mi-ra
Wow! I gotta become an adult and have them call me "goddess"!

There are Pseudo Morph Rats
that refuse to obey human beings.

Just relax!
Someone actually saw them at Mt. Tsukuba.
Hey, Satoru! Haven't I told you to stop soaking us with your icky cat saliva?!

Huh? What do you mean?

Pseudo Morph Rats look just like the real ones.
At first, they pretend to obey humans like real Morph Rats.
But once they get a chance

Eeeeek!
Ma-ria!

Damn it, Satoru!

To the base of Mt. Tsukuba?

You always tell stupid tall tales and explain away contradictions saying it's just hearsay after all!
The place I mentioned yesterday!!
Do you realize how bad you've scared Maria?
Yes! Where the Pseudo Morph Rats were sighted!
Sau

WHIP
At summer camp, I'll prove that all of your stories are total lies
Ungh
so you'll never be able to tell any tall tales again!

To begin with
Hey, hang on!!
I'm going! I'll make you apologize for calling me a liar!
Or are you scared of being outed and don't wanna go?

didn't our teachers tell us not to get too far into Kasumigaura?
We can't do this! There's probably something we can't handle alone out there.
ガバッ
True. It'd be a pain if the teacher found out.
What? Well sure, but still—
We might never get another chance!
I wanna go!
Shun!!
What? You too, Shun?!
Wow
It's not like me.
Ohmori Nanaka, it's sure to be fun too for other groups
Sakurai Saori-san is!
B-But—
We're gonna have the most fun!
RPM

AND SO
Whoa! We're really here!
The Off Limits Zone! Let's go beach!
Shut up, Mamori!
Will you knock it off already? You were whining throughout the boat trip too!
Maria
You're such a pathetic coward!
Ah, I want a big bathtub where just the two of us can cuddle, Maria.
Yay! I'll go make one!
I'll be back soon!
We're past the Border Zone, you know?
No adults or field to protect us here.
Aren't you guys scared?

I don't know what we'd do if we ran into a Fiend...
Out here, there might be Fiends and Karma Demons!
But
We can use magick now!
Not scared at all?
SORT
FIENDS WILL PURSUE HUMANS TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH AND KILL EVERY LAST ONE.
KARMA DEMONS WARP EVERYTHING AROUND THEM INTO GROTESQUE FORMS.
EVER SINCE OUR EARLIEST DAYS, WE'D BEEN TAUGHT ABOUT THEM.
THE NEMESIS OF HUMANS WITH OUR GOD-LIKE MAGICK.
But we agree that there haven't been any for hundreds of years, right?
Not a chance we'll meet any.

A Marpb Rat is drown-ing!
!!

ビク
Over here !!
Hurry up! C'mon!
N-No way!

バチャ
バチャ
バチャ

Save ?!
We gotta save it!

Oh no !
What's up ?

No! We're not allowed to even approach Morph Rats!
Huh? But —
I-It's true... And it'd be bad if any adults found out...
Mari na !!
And it could be a Pseudo Morph Rat's trap —

Pseudos won't have IDs because they're not monitored by humans!
No use. I can't see its forehead !
Is there any way to tell them apart, Satoru?
Who cares !!
Uhh... Right.
Morph Rats have their names and ID number tattooed on their foreheads!

Wait! What are you ...
Saki !!
...
Pseudo or not, we can't have anything to do with Morph Rats for whatever reason !

If we don't help it, it'll die !!
You're all so heart-less!

But... Saki !!

Visualize scooping up the water with your hands.
Saki !

Shun
...
All right!
Concentrate, visualize
...
Imagine scooping it all up!
right now!
I'll save you
...

I did it!
Careful, Saki! It could still be a Pseudo
Yeah... I know
?!

Bowing on all fours ?
It precedes to obey humans at first, waiting for a chance to strike
I'm gonna... check for a tattoo.
Do you understand me? Don't move, all right?

Ooh
Ooh
Gohdt. Kee kee!
Phew ...
It's there !
Come to think of it ...
this is my first time seeing a Norpin Rat's face.

Ah, gross
This... is a Morph Rat?
No... I thought it'd be way cuter...
Eek
All I can make out is "gook."
Uh...Err... ahem... kw kw... Ooh... Ooh...
Saki, let's go.
Yeah
Does it understand us?
Hey, listen up! Don't tell anyone else that we're here, got it?
What an unpleasant taste.
What's it saying? "Thanks" in Rat?
Wa... Dont... kw...
Ooo... O Oh Wo...
Dont... on kw kp... with kw...
W- Wo... Ooh... Ooh...

Spi
der
...
Gh...
Godts...
R-Rnnn...
Darg...
ger.

KLATTER

...
Hey
...
Good work today, guys!
Running around all day really does make food tastier!
That was delish!

Even more after seeing that Morph Rat!
I am !!
HRC
You still scared ?
?
TSK
It's not too late to get out of this zone.
Has any adult ever told us that Morph Rats are ugly creatures ?
Grown-ups have been hiding the truth from us kids!
You suck !
!!
This zone could be teeming with Fiends.
So it might be a lie too that no karma Demons or Fiends have been seen for hundreds of years!
HUH ?
That's true, but... Why would they want to fool us? They wouldn't.

Sorry.
Hah, Maria
Listen.
I know one of the truths that Mamoru's talking about.
What are you trying to do by riling us up with your drivel ?
You're the worst kind of coward !!

What do you say ?
Not the Shuri we know ...
Go to sleep now and come with me at dawn tomorrow if you wanna find out.
A truth that's been concealed and that can only be learned outside the Rope! Heh...

Hmm?
Huh?

Hi-mey, Shun! At least give us a hint ahead about why we gotta head out so early!
It's fine, you'll see soon enough.
Come with me!
Huh? Shun's being really brash.

Ever since Shimon Hideki left, it's like the top floor's been under a curse. It's been two years since the last time I've been allowed on it.
Although I'm free to go, I don't feel like doing so...

Ahh
What is it ?
Look! There's something over there!
ヒヲッ
Ew... Was it killed by wild dogs?
Now we're talking, modernday. Focus other end at that!
A Morph Rat's corpse !
It's mashed up real bad.

So what's the big truth hidden up here?
Huh? Whoa, the summit!
Mt. Tsukuba
We've arrived! Looks like we made it in time!
!
Then, why are we...
Huh?
Who?!
Sorry, that was a lie!
Wait

There're only low hills inside the Rope, right?

That's why I wanted to come see this with you all.

Wow
I've never seen such a beautiful view
Sea!
Yes
Yes

What? Mt. Fuji!
Whoa
Yuk. You can see right across the Kanto plain.
Wow
Amazing!

That was great!
You can't see anything like that in town!
I guess our parents also... Nah.

Thanks, Shun!
I bet no adult has ever seen such pretty scenery either!
It's our precious secret, just for us five!

I'm back!
We came.

Ha ha ha ha ha /
Who was just begging to go home ?
Ikka ha ha ha! Talk about changing your tune, Mamoru!

PNEEE
PNEEE
PNEEE
PNEEE

Shush !
What's up, Sae ?
You always wanted to explore out past the Rope and see some beautiful sight.
It's night already but I'm glad Kayaki-sa. Thought I'd owe off alone.
Yeah! It's a dream come true.
Yeah, really was an amazing view.

It's because I wanted to show Ms. Tsukuba
Oh, really ?
When we talked about coming to Mt. Tsukuba, it wasn't to expose Satoru's lies that I agreed to it.
Yup. One down

Like! You.
It wasn't a drag.
What? You must have barely had any time to do research!
Not at all.
By the way, you made from the Past Civilization show, Mr. Tsukuba, wasn't it a drag to look up?
If I can be by your side
when your dreams come true, nothing's a drag!
Hunh?
You're amazing, Saki!
You'll be someone who can come up with things I'd never think of and act on them too. I doubt I'll be able to keep up.
So I'm glad I could be there for your first granted wish.
But that was just the first!

From now on too.
please let me be by your side when your dreams come true!

!!
Sak...!
I'm gonna head back to camp.
Oh... Er...
See ya.

RA-DUM
RA-DUM
RA-DUM
RA-DUM
Shun
...
...
RA-

Heyyy, Sakii !!
!!
C'mere, Mamo's drew an awesome picture !
C-Com-ing!
See? It's you two!
It's spot on! I didn't know he could draw so well!
Heh heh

So this is for today, Mario
Huh ?
Wait, you make him draw every day!?
Well

I WISHED TIME ITSELF WOULD STOP.
S-stop.
Whew
IF ONLY TIME HAD FROZEN STILL AT THAT MOMENT

ONE BY ONE LIKE SO MANY BROKEN TEETH IN A COMB.
WE FIVE WOULDN'T HAVE GONE AWAY

Ah, I'm sleepy out.
We didn't see any other Morph Rats after a whole day of exploring.
Sigh

Kasa

Haaaa...
This is the best

Hm
What?
Oh, nothing. You saw that deer Maryn Rat, right?
It somehow seemed sad. I wonder why.
Hm
STARE
!!
M-Maria?!

You've cheated on me ?!
Last night, were you...

Satoru!? What? Why?!
with Satoru ?

Oh, that ?
And you! I had no idea you were making Mamoru draw picures every day! Who's been cheating ?

Huh ?! No...
You seem really out of it today. Did something happen ?
Does it really seem that way?
No way! I'd never do anything with Satoru.
'Cause he's the boy you're obsessed with.

It was a secret
I made him draw after class so he's be occupied while the four of us went for special training
Figured he'd tell the teacher if he found out.
Oh
Enough about him
?!
-ery. Saki

Do you like me?
Yeah
Do you... love me?
Yes
Saki

kiss you ?
May I

Sure ...
...

Could it be a Fiend !!
!!
It's not like guys, is it? Then
!
Wait, Mariel There's something there
Huh ?
!

Ah! The one we saved! The same tattoo
Oh, a Morph Rat.
?!
Dang...gee! Ohh... Who... Awakee... Goddis!
?!

Did I mishear, or did it say
It left. I can't get it. Why was it here?
Huh?

I don't know. But
You're hearing things. Run away, from what?
Km koo?
"Run away, gods"?

Kee kee kee!
It's also near us!
If we don't...
What...?
?!
Kee kee kee!
Listen closely. That's not a normal cry. It's agitated.
We shouldn't go. I feel like there's something dangerous lying in wait for us.
Kee?
...
Huh...
Grr...
For safety's sake, let's at least go see what's up.
It's almost dark. Now's our only chance.
Over there!
Can't see through the grass. What's going on?
Hm, there's another one.
Huh? I don't see it.
Rustle
Rustle
Gl Ah

Huh ?!
There's fighting! But...
What's that?!
Oh, no !!
!!

...
It killed ...
It has no tattoo !!
Keep it down !
?!
Don't make a sound. We'll try to avoid being noticed and wait for it to wander off.
Looked to the ground? Why?

GYAAKH!
?!
GYAGH
GHEEK
Fyeo fwooo ooooo ooooo !
Bkyo ooor rrrk !
Bkg yor rk !
OFF
fwooo
Fyeo

Hey over there!
Please don't
Ah
Um

はぁ
はぁ

I DON'T GET IT. WHAT'S THE DEAL
HAA
HAA
HAA
FROM THE new WORLD
HAA
HAA
HAA
WITH THIS MON-STER?

Chapter 3
Summer Darkness

Pgyoh hohh hooo !
!!
It's coming this way!!
Maria !!
Saki! Nooo !!
No !!
Hoooh
?

Yaa
Yaa
?!
Magick
!!

But we never learned to use our powers like that in school!
Ha-Hah
Y-Yeah
Ha ha ha, Mamoru, way to go!

Why did it try to attack us?
Huh?
What do you mean, Shun?
It should've known it's no match for humans who can use magick.
Even if it's big and lacks a tattoo, it's still a Morph Rat. So why?
Maybe
It didn't know about magick?
Not monitored by humans... Not having a tattoo is just impossible in Japan. So this one must have crossed the sea with a whole colony...
No, Seki might be right. Even then...
What? But...
I dunno, maybe it's never met a human before?
How can that be?

It's a Morph Rat from over-seas!
...

Hey, Saki! Don't be scared! We'll keep using our powers until we get back.
Mamoru! Set that thing down past those hills!
Hey, you too, Shun?

From over-seas...?
I've never heard of such a thing. Another truth that adults kept from us?

Let's hurry back to the boats and get out of this Off Limits Zone!
Magick might be powerful, but it's not foolproof.
Grr
Aaaaa

Ge-
Could it be
It's changed
Pieee
Pieee
Pieee
Pieee
calling to its kin?!
Pieee
BA-DUM
BA-DUM

It's... Kin...
If there are a lot of them and they come to attack us
This one being here means its colony must be nearby.
Mamoru, just let it go.
We'll calmly go back to the boats
Mamoru! Quick, put it down!
We're still fine, stay calm
Okay
?!

?!
Don't tell me...
No, this...
What? Earth tremors?!
Hi-Five many are charging!
Enough rumors, let's go!
It's his whole clan on the march?!
Stop calling to your clan.
Stop it!!!

It... stopped?
Pwece

Pwccc
Pwccc
Pwccc

Boys

We'll retreat slowly to avoid provoking them...
O-okay

Ma-maru, calm down!
Ma-maru!!
Don't call to any more !!

Sto ooo ooo ppp
Stop it!
Peeee

Peeee
Peeee

PW...
GUASH
Gasp!

SMASH
SMASH
SMASH

...

A-
Ah...
Mamoru
Why did you... kill...
N-
No
No
No

Ma-
moru
!!

Aaaaah!!

No, Mamoru, stop! Don't go into the forest!
!!

?!
We can't use magick in there! You'll get killed!
Guys, we have to go after Makoru and stop him!
O-Okay!
!!
PGY OOR RRK !

PGYOHH
You can only use magick on things you can see!
Nkk... Listen up!
It's powerless against surprise attacks! Once we're in the forest you don't get distracted even for a moment!
RUSH

Don't go into the forest! You'll get killed!
This is what it's like!
Mamoru, stop!!
It's too dangerous in here!!
It's dark, full of blind spots!!
?!

Saki !!
Ack
Are there gonna be more?!
An arrow? From where?!
Saki !!

!!

?!
WAIT!

Shun
!
We pull away here!
?!

The forest is... sinking!
ROARR
N-Now they won't be able to pursue us!
Wh-What
What did he develop so much power the forest is...
Shun

Wait! Now that they've seen you use your power they won't think of coming after us!
Alright! There's no need to—
Run, everyone! We'll dash right through these woods!
Wha?! Shun?
SKYCRRRK
!!
No... Why?
Hurry or they'll catch us!
NOOO...

Just run !!
But...
How'd I know anything about these damn trees ?!
Hey! When will this forest end?

They're getting close...
!!
Psya aaah !!

!
Crap! At this rate they'll catch up in no time!

Maria!
Urgh... *sob*
Maria! We'll be fine so hang in there, okay?
But... But...
Why are they chasing us?! We're... humans!!
Why the hell aren't they cowered by the sight of magick?
We'll never shake off such beasts!
We're gonna get killed by them in this forest!
...!!

We're all gonna die here !!

Kyok !!
Psyo ook !

I won't let you die!

safely back on the boats !!
I swear I'll get all of us

Yeah !!
Ah !!

A break in the trees! We can make it out of the forest!
!!
W- We did it!
If we get out of here we can ditch 'em!
Just a little more, guys!
Stay sharp all the way!
Okay!

!!
Archers? They got us up?!
Gotta get back into the...
Jump

!!
ZUASH
We're totally trapped!
For...
Done

Gee gya !
A falling out?
!!!!
Are you unhurt, young gods ?
What? What's going on?
Are they flee-ing?
Pgya aaah !

I've heard
Wh-- What's that?
at least one member of each colony can converse with humans, but...
A Morph Rat?
The name of the position was...

I am Squealer, prolocutor for the
Robbery Fly Colony.

?!
You mean we were saved by a native colony of Morph Rats loyal to humans?
But why are you here?

!
That Morph Rat...?!
One of our brethren whom you saved said it was of the utmost urgency.
I heard that you gods were at risk of encountering them so we rushed over.
Anyway, it's dangerous here! Please come to our colony where it's safe.
I'm so glad you gods were safe. They always resort to brutal and cowardly methods.
Just a scratch from one of their poisoned arrows could be fatal.
Hey, Seki, should we really?
Even if they're loyal to humans, they're Morph Rats. Can we trust them?

They're the Ground Spiders, a dangerous colony of Marsh Rats from overseas.
What are they?
We're currently at war with them.
Raiden?! If I hadn't turned around just then...

We Robber Flies are a weak colony numbering a mere seven hundred, while the Ground Spiders are a major colony counting no less than four thousand...
The situation is not in our favor.
War?! And can you beat them?

...
Yet you gods will not face any further danger from them today, so please be at ease.
The whole area you can see from here is our colony.

Pwee
Pwee
Pwee

TO THE POINT WHERE WE COULDN'T TELL IF THE MORPH RAT COULD BE TRUSTED.
CAST INTO A MUSU WHERE OUR KNOWLEDGE REPEATEDLY FAILED US. WE WERE SPENT
This is a colony?

Let's go. Please be at ease. At the very least, they won't be able to reach you within our colony tonight.

AS SIGURALIER PROMISED, WE WERE IN FACT,

SPARED OF HAVING TO FEAR FOR OUR LIVES.
FOR A SHORT WHILE.

FROM
THE
NEW
WORLD

Welcome to the Robbery Fly Colony.
FROM THE NEW WORLD
I will explain everything once we're inside the colony.
Seeing is believing, young one.
Hey, how can you be so sure that your colony is safe?
Will we ever make it back to town without losing anyone?

Chapter 4 A Pair of Eyes in the Darkness

So this is a Mergin Rat colony

Hey— Should we really be in here?
It's below ground! If the ceiling collapses
Our only choice is to trust them.
Right, Maria?
Maria?
Huh?!
Uh, right.
Um?

GULP
As you know, we Morph Rats live in underground colonies, with a queen at the apex.
Guess she must be pretty worn out ...
Maybe we could actually catch him out in a cavern like this!
The living quarters are clustered in the deepest reaches.
The tunnels span a wide area including the surrounding forests.
The shallow parts have networks of tunnels for combat purposes.
Since we're abreast of happenings above ground via sound and vibration, we can launch one-sided attacks from underground.

That's why it's almost impossible to assault this colony from above.
Yes.
So the defending colony has the advantage?

Please spend your time here free of worry!
Hence we are able to receive you gods into our colony with confidence.

Oh, sure!
By the way, would you be so kind as to greet our Queen?
I feel so much better now that I know this place is safe!
We'll escort you back to your beds safely first thing tomorrow.
I see!

Climbing Mt. Tsukuba, meeting Morph Race, getting chased! And meeting a Queen?
Right!
When you stop to think of it, this is really turning out to be an amazing summer camp!
It's all stuff we gotta keep secret, but...
they'll be our own wonderful memories.
Our own?

Oh, Maria, hey!
What did you love most?

...

Marie
We have arrived. The Queen awaits within.
...
I apologize, but the Queen hates any light.
It's dark. No light ?
This is the Queen ?
I sense a pretty huge creature ...
?
SWELL

?!
DVV
GREE
GAHH
GAAH
DVVV
NVVV

Why can't she from first ?!
Don't worry, the Queen speaks Japanese, too.
Ah... Go... dit...
Gah
Alright! Wh- What the heck was that ?!
Did we anger her?
She said, "It's an honor to meet you" in our native tongue.
Wha ?!
Please, spare us!

Gods, it is a grab... great hooks to have you, b-b here...
Oh! She sounds almost like a human woman that I expected.
Almost gentle.
I'll guide you to your bed-rooms.
Good night, Queen.

THEY HAD TO BE FRIENDS OF HUMANKIND
SINCE THEY'D SAVED US AND COULD EXCHANGE WORDS WITH US.
AT THAT POINT, WE TRUSTED THEM FULLY.

A GRO-TESQUE ORGAN-ISM...
IT MAY HAVE BEEN PREJU-DICE.
BUT I FELT MY BUDDING SENTIMENT SNUFFED OUT INSTANTLY.

I will come watch you in the morning.
The bed is just straw covered in cloth. It feels coarse.
Whoa, the ceiling is glowing!
Like a firefly. Pretty!
Something's off...
It feels like it's been a figure I've lost right now, so relief is for the rest of my life. Is it really safe here?
Saki.
Hm?

We've been through a lot and your nerves are worked up, right?
M-Mariel? What're you...

I'll help you feel better ♡
Hey!!

Tee hee ♡
?!

So, later, okay?

W-Wait, Mariel We can't, not now!
There's something I gotta
PANT
think on!

?!
ちゅぱ
Really good
Just a minute, okay? There's something serious I gotta focus on...
Wait, Maria... why are you being so... aggressive?
Kissing me... No fair! Can't get... swept away.

Mmmm!
ZOM
I don't think so, you're not a serious girl, Saki.
but feel more
You Saki are ♡
Stick out your tongue. I'll make you feel even better ♡
Pervy Saki ♡
If I get pulled any further into this I won't be able to cheer at all.
a kinky girl, yes?
no
no
no

How odd
Maria has never been this pushy before.
What's going on, Maria?!

Maria, I can't
Do you love me, Seki-?
Do you?
Well? Do you?
Y- Yes

Ah!

Hey, Saki ?
Hmm ?

I said I didn't want to! Stupid Maria!
Geez.

Today I was forced to realize that I couldn't blame you if you don't like me anymore.
What's wrong, Maria ?

Do you still love me?

I'd been proud to be a part of our circle
You and Shin and Satoru— all my oldest friends are so brave and kind, really amazing ...

I was never really one of you.
But I was wrong.

Timid, cowardly. I thought little of him.
So I disliked Mamoru from the day I met him.

I'm horrible. Mamoru's done nothing wrong. I simply didn't want to admit that I'm just like him.
I've hurt him lots, with hateful words.

I can't hide my weakness when I'm really up against the wall.
I'm just as much a coward as Mamoru. Even though I act tough.

Of course you don't like me.

I'm sorry for forcing you. I won't anymore.
Maria ?

Sorry

I love your pretty red hair.
I love how you get all stubborn.
I love how kind you really are.
Let's be together forever.
If you're weak, I'll be strong
I'll always love you.
?!
And
I love you.

I won't let you sleep tonight
Who did you call a "kinky girl" ?
Heh heh ...
Be gentle ♡

This colony isn't safe? What do you mean, Shun?!

?!
No... he's not lying. But he's making a big mistake.

You mean Squealer tricked us?
I finally figured out what seemed so odd.

You saw their bodies, right? Twice as big as native Rats. They look like they've adapted to fighting on the surface, not in narrow underground tunnels!
So you mean

He assumed his own common sense applies to overseas Morph Rats!

There must be a way to conquer a enemy from above?!
I could just be over-thinking, but...
I'm positive Squealer's overlooked that possibility!
So should we get out of here right away?!
No...

...
It's too dangerous to wander around unfamiliar woods at night. Let's wait for dawn, praying nothing happens

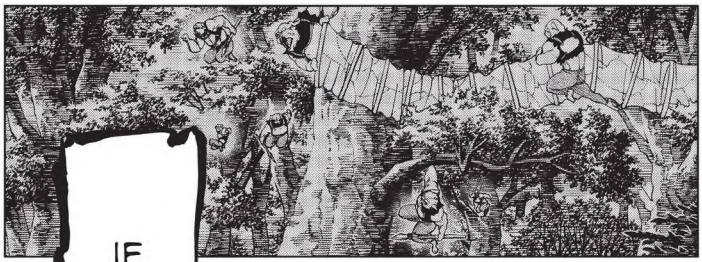
I'VE BEEN TOLD THAT WHEN I WAS BORN, THE UMBILICAL CORD WAS WRAPPED AROUND MY NECK AND I COULDN'T EVEN BREATHE. TWO WEEKS LATER,
ANOTHER BABY WAS BORN IN THE SAME HOSPITAL IN AN EVEN MORE PRECARIOUS STATE. THE NURSE DREW ON LESSONS FROM MY BIRTH TO SAVE THAT BABY, WHO BECAME MY BEST FRIEND— MARIA AKIZUKI.

HEH
Sleep-talk.
Nnn

NUZZLE
もぞ
NUZZLE
Mn... Saki.
I'M PROUD TO HAVE SAVED HER LIFE, IF ONLY INDIRECTLY.

BUT ...
SHOOM
ゴッ

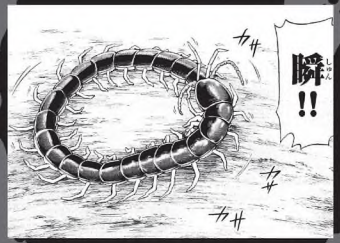
RUSTLE
RUSTLE



IF MARIA HAD NEVER BEEN

CONTINUED IN VOLUME 2

SAKI AND HER FRIENDS...



A NEVER-ENDING NIGHT-MARE...

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WHILE THEY DESPAIR...

...TRAPPED IN A RAT COLONY

FROM THE NEW WORLD 2

...THE ADULTS CONSPIRE

From the New World Volume 1

KODANSHA COMICS Digital Edition

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